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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response. This complete set of claims excludes cancelled claims 1-3, 8-11, 19, 21, 23 and includes amended claims 4-7, 12, 16, 17, 20, 22, 24, 25.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 17, further comprising a third terminal and a fourth terminal, wherein said switch means further comprises:

means for connecting any combination of said third terminal and said fourth terminal to ground to provide a return path for said electrical therapy from a left ventricular ring electrode, a right ventricular ring electrode, or both said left and right ventricular ring electrodes.

5. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 17, wherein said switch means comprises:

~~a first switch connecting said pulse generator to said first terminal;~~  
~~a second switch connecting said pulse generator to said second terminal;~~  
a third switch connecting said pulse generator to said third terminal; and  
a fourth switch connecting said pulse generator to said fourth terminal.

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6. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim 5, wherein ~~said control means comprises:~~

~~a programmable microcontroller; and~~

wherein said computer readable program code means for causing said microcontroller to control said switch means to

provide left ventricular pacing by closing only one of said first and second switches and closing at least one of said third and fourth switches,

provide right ventricular pacing by closing only the other of said first and second switches and closing at least one of said third and fourth switches, and

provide bi-ventricular pacing by closing both of said first and second switches and closing at least one of said third and fourth switches.

7. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 17, further comprising a third terminal and a fourth terminal, wherein said switch means further comprises:

means for connecting any combination of said third terminal and said fourth terminal to ground to provide a return path for said electrical therapy from an additional pacing electrode, a case of said stimulation device, or both said additional pacing electrode and said case.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 20, further comprising:  
electrically configuring said switch means to connect any combination of  
said third terminal and a fourth terminal to ground to provide a return path for said  
electrical pulse from a right ventricular ring electrode, a left ventricular ring electrode, or  
both the right and left ventricular ring electrodes.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said fourth configuring step  
comprises:  
closing a third switch to connect said pulse generator to the third terminal;  
and  
opening a fourth switch to isolate said pulse generator from the fourth  
terminal.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said fourth configuring step  
further comprises:  
opening a third switch to isolate said pulse generator from the third  
terminal; and  
closing a fourth switch to connect said pulse generator to the fourth  
terminal.
15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said fourth configuring step  
further comprises:  
closing a third switch to connect said pulse generator to the third terminal;  
and  
closing a fourth switch to connect said pulse generator to the fourth  
terminal.
16. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim [[11]] 17,  
wherein said left ventricular pacing electrode is a tip electrode, and wherein said right  
ventricular pacing electrode is a tip electrode.

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17. (Currently Amended) ~~The cardiac stimulation device of claim 2,~~ An implantable cardiac stimulation device, comprising:

a first terminal for connection to a left ventricular pacing electrode, said left ventricular pacing electrode for placement in electrical contact with a left ventricle;

a second terminal for connection to a right ventricular pacing electrode, said right ventricular pacing electrode for placement in a right ventricle;

a pulse generator;

switch means for connecting any combination of said first and second terminals to said pulse generator to deliver electrical therapy to said left ventricular pacing electrode, said right ventricular pacing electrode, or both said left and right ventricular pacing electrodes;

wherein said switch means comprises:

a first switch connecting said pulse generator to said first terminal;

and

a second switch connecting said pulse generator to said second terminal; and

control means for controlling operation of said pulse generator and said switch means;

wherein said control means comprises:

a programmable microcontroller; and

computer readable program code means for causing said microcontroller to control said switch means to close only one of said first and second switches to provide left ventricular pacing to a heart, to close only the other of said first and second switches to provide right ventricular pacing, and to close both of said first and second switches at differing times to provide bi-ventricular pacing with an interventricular delay.

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18. (Previously Presented) The cardiac stimulation device of claim 17, wherein said programmable microcontroller independently controls pacing pulse amplitude and pacing pulse width to the left and right ventricles.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11,~~ A method for operating a cardiac stimulation device having a first terminal for connection to a right ventricular pacing electrode, a second terminal for connection to a left ventricular pacing electrode, and a third terminal, the method comprising:

using a pulse generator to generate an electrical pulse for delivery to a heart;

electrically configuring switch means to deliver said electrical pulse to the first terminal when pulse delivery is desired to a right ventricle of the heart, said switch means comprising closing a first switch to connect said pulse generator to the first terminal and opening a second switch to isolate said pulse generator from the second terminal;

electrically configuring said switch means to deliver said electrical pulse to the second terminal when pulse delivery is desired to a left ventricle of the heart, said switch means comprising opening said first switch to isolate said pulse generator from the first terminal and closing the second switch to connect said pulse generator to the second terminal; and

electrically configuring said switch means to deliver said electrical pulse to both the first and second terminals when bi-ventricular pulse delivery is desired, said switch means comprising ~~wherein said third configuring step further comprises:~~ closing the first switch at a time  $t_0$  to connect said pulse generator to the first terminal, closing the second switch at a time  $t_1$  to connect said pulse generator to the second terminal; terminal, wherein  $t_0$  differs from  $t_1$  to provide bi-ventricular pacing with an interventricular delay.

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 24, further comprising:

a first terminal for connection to said left ventricular pacing electrode; and

a second terminal for connection to said right ventricular pacing electrode;

wherein said switching system comprises:

~~a first switch to connect said pulse generator to said first terminal; and~~

~~a second switch to connect said pulse generator to said second terminal.~~

a first switch to connect said pulse generator to said first terminal;

and

a second switch to connect said pulse generator to said second

terminal.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The cardiac stimulation device of claim 21, An~~  
implantable cardiac stimulation device, comprising:

a pulse generator;

a left ventricular pacing electrode switchably coupled to said pulse  
generator;

a right ventricular pacing electrode switchably coupled to said pulse  
generator;

a switching system to connect any combination of said left ventricular  
pacing electrode and said right ventricular pacing electrode to deliver pacing pulses to a  
left ventricle, a right ventricle, or both the left and right ventricles; and

a controller to control operation of said pulse generator and said switching  
system;

wherein said controller causes said switching system to close only one of  
said first and second switches to provide left ventricular pacing to a heart, to close only

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the other of said first and second switches to provide right ventricular pacing, and to close both of said first and second switches at differing times to provide bi-ventricular pacing with an interventricular delay.

25. (Currently Amended) The cardiac stimulation device of claim ~~24~~ 24, wherein said pacing pulses have a pulse amplitude and pulse width, and wherein said controller independently controls said pulse amplitude and said pulse width to the left and right ventricles.